

Managing OpenBiblio Plugins

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OpenBiblio has a very flexible plugin system. This document will describe how you can enable and disable plugins, understand the plugins that are included with OpenBiblio, and design a new plugin.

1 Enabling plugins

Tip

You will need access to the Tools menu.

1. Go to Tools → Plugin Manager.
2. Make sure that Plugins are Allowed.
3. Check the box next to each plugin you are interested in using.

2 Plugins bundled with OpenBiblio

These plugins all come bundled with a default OpenBiblio installation.

2.1 CSS Utilities (cssUtils)

This plug-in will look for two categories of CSS issues:

1. CSS entries in `.../styles.css` that appear to not be in use
2. CSS classes referenced in OB that do not appear in `.../styles.css`

2.1.1 WARNINGS

No fixes are suggested or made. The user should be VERY careful in removing any that appear to not be in use as some css usage is dynamic via jQuery and is difficult to detect programatically.

Query selectors having multiple entries (e.g. `$(.reqd sup)`) are not currently parsed as multiple entries to be searched.

2.2 Pull-Down List Manager (List Manager)

This plug-in is intended to provide a developer with a simple means to view the contents of pull down list that are used in various locations throughout OB.

No means are provided at this time to modify these lists.

2.3 Media Fields

This plug-in is intended to provide a means for OB users to exchange input form layouts.

Some media forms are infrequently used and a new user may not know just what material should be collected.

Using this plugin, it is possible to create a text file of a layout that can be emailed to another for them to import.

2.4 Orphan File finder (orpahnFiles)

This plug-in is intended to find old abandoned files. The concept here is to find files which: . are not referred to via any menu . are not referred to by any HTML mechanism such as Javascript, CSS, Form Actions, Images, etc. . are not referred to by any PHP mechanism such as 'include's or 'require's . are not referenced in Object class inheritances.

Note

there are many legacy files and folders the have an initial letter 'x'. These are to be considered *Legacy* works and may be removed from the OB project at the Lead Developer's descretion.

Note

There is an entire ../docs folder that has never been integrated into OB ver 1.0. this folder may be removed from the OB project at the Lead Developer's descretion.

2.5 Translation Utilities (transUtils)

This plugin is intended as an aid to the creation or maintenance of a locale translation. All T(...) entries in OB .php files are checked. Each available translation is tested seperately.

The following functions are available:

1. Check for Duplicate Entries. Intended to find duplicate entries which may be out of place alphebetically and so un-noticed.
2. Check for Unused Entries. Look for table entries which have been abandoned, or through miss-spelling somewhere, are not currently being used.
3. Check for Needed Entries. Look for T(...) entries which do not have a corresponding entry in the trans.php file.
4. Check for Potential Entries. Look for quoted strings (both normal display, and error) in all files which do not have a T(...) surround. Error messages embedded in the various language processors (PHP, JS, CSS, mySQL, etc) will not be caught.

2.6 Call Number Utilities (CallNoUtils)

This section describes the Call Number Utilities plugin.

A pull-down allows a search for:

1. items without an assigned call number
2. proposed call numbers based on a desired schema
3. posting proposed call numbers as needed.

2.6.1 Find Records without call numbers

This function will scan the entire database and return a list of all biblios which do not have a call number assigned.

2.6.2 Dry Run of call number add

This function will propose call numbers based on the preferred source.

2.6.3 Add call numbers to records

This function will post the proposed call numbers.

3 Creating a new plugin

This requires basic PHP skills and access to the files.

3.1 Design the plugin

1. Create a new directory that begins with the word plugin, followed by an underscore, followed by the name of your plugin. In UNIX systems, you might type something like this:

```
mkdir plugin_excitingPlugin
```

2. If you need to include custom CSS or JS, add it to a file called custom_head.php in this new directory.
3. Create three PHP files in the directory: a JS file, a Srvr file, and a Forms file.

3.1.1 Create a plugin server

Your plugin's server—located at `plugin_excitingPlugin/excitingSrvr.php`—is responsible for three tasks:

1. Performing any actions the user requests.
2. Obtaining any relevant data from the database, file structure, or external API.
3. Displaying the relevant data to the user in a nice HTML format.

A basic plugin server consists of a require statement to get the necessary data and methods and a switch statement to take care of the `$_REQUEST['mode']` variable. Here's a simple example:

```
<?php
require_once('../shared/common.php');
switch ($_REQUEST['mode']) {
    case 'exciting':
        echo 'This plugin is very exciting.';
        break;
    case 'boring':
        echo 'This plugin is pretty boring.';
        break;
    default:
        echo T('invalid mode');
        break;
}
```

If you would like to access data from the database, you should require the appropriate model from the model directory. For example, if you'd like to use the Biblios model, you would include this in your `plugin_excitingPlugin/excitingSrvr.php`:

```
require_once('../model/Biblios.php');
$bib = new Biblios;
```

You can then access all those great methods and data through the `$bib` object.

3.2 Add your plugin to the OpenBiblio menu

1. Create a new directory inside the plugins directory with the name of your plugin. In UNIX systems, you might type something like this:

```
mkdir plugins_excitingPlugin
```

2. Create a file within this new directory called nav.nav

```
<?php
Nav::node('tools/excitingPlugin', 'Exciting Plugin', '../plugin_excitingPlugin/ ↵
    excitingPluginForms.php');
```

3. If you'd like to use Obib's localization framework but need to localize some more terms, create a file called tran.tran. You can use this to add new terms to your locale.

Tip

Plugins already have all of the exciting localization ability built in. However, note that you cannot override localized term definitions within tran.tran.

+ WARNING: There is not yet a place to specify localized terms for plugins.

4. Turn on your plugin using Tools → Plugin Manager.
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